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The question of the length of the working-day has been answered by Utopists in various ways; most workers prefer six hours, some hope to reduce the time to four, some discriminate according to the class of workmen, others, as Cabet, the author of *Icaria*, decide for six hours in winter and seven in summer.

The farther the Utopistic type develops, the more it discards poetical pictures and the manner of fiction, as alchemy yielded to chemistry and astrology to astronomy. Thus out of the genuine fictitious Utopia there has gradually developed a scientific system of political economy. In no work is this more plainly seen than in the *Freeland* of Dr. Hertzka, an Austrian author of several serious essays bearing upon political economy. He speaks of solidarity of interests, of associations, of parliamentary discussion, of banks and commercial associations. It is refreshing to see how elegantly the gentleman solves the financial question: "You give just 35 per cent. of the gross returns of your work to the government, which is thus enabled to look out for the commonwealth." Thirty-five per cent.—no more? "That settles the whole matter," says the author of *Schlaraffia*, and very truly.

ALBRECHT WIRTH.

The Aged Poor in England and Wales (Condition). By CHARLES BOOTH. New York: Macmillan and Co., 1894. 8vo. pp. 527.

THREE Englishmen in ten who survive the age of sixty-five are wholly or in part dependent on public charity. If it were possible to exclude that part of the nation who are by their economic condition practically beyond the possibility of becoming paupers, "it would probably be found that amongst the working classes and small traders the rate of pauperism for all over sixty-five is not less than 40 to 45 per cent." This shocking degree of pauper degeneracy is Mr. Booth's problem. With the coöperation of several friends he has taken two steps in the direction of its solution; he has provided from government sources and original inquiries a reservoir of statistical materials for its study, and he has offered a few tentative conclusions.

It appears that the condition of the aged poor has become more difficult within twenty years, though poverty at large has been materially mitigated. The old bear least readily the increasing stress of industrial conditions. The percentage of paupers is said to be least in

the country (where work for the old is more abundant)—varying from 15.50 in the agricultural districts of the North to 38 in London. Where population dwindles by emigration the departure of the young and strong leaves behind an excessive proportion of paupers. Thus, in certain parts of London and the other great cities, where population has diminished, about half of the old require public assistance. This is true, however, only of the cities, for in the country, if population decreases, the land is better able to support the remainder and there is more work which the old can do. Of the old men who find work in the country, 13 per cent. make less than five shillings per week; only 10 per cent. make over sixteen shillings. Thrift shows itself rarely in saving money during the working years, but chiefly in benefit societies (not ordinarily giving life insurance), or in some of the forms of coöperation.

Mr. Booth disavows, for the present, any general purpose of drawing conclusions. The question as to the effect of out-relief he approaches somewhat cautiously, and emerges from a maze of indications and counter-indications with no very positive result *pro* or *contra*. Yet the tendency of the discussion is rather unfavorable to out-relief, as pauperism appears to be least frequent—taking the country at large—where it is practically denied, unions in which a moderate degree of restriction is imposed being only less fortunate. Yet paupers are found in greatest proportion under methods midway between these two, where out-relief is granted, but with very great restriction. Mr. Booth recognizes the impossibility of deciding whether the method of administration is a cause or an effect, but he does not take account of the discouragement to dependence on charity which must result, where indoor-relief prevails, from the dread of going to “the house.”

Another volume is promised dealing “with the administration of the poor law as regards the old and with proposals for their relief” in other ways, and a government commission of which Mr. Booth is a member has taken under consideration the questions dealt with in the present book.

A. P. WINSTON.

Handbook of Sociological Information, with especial reference to New York City. By W. H. TOLMAN and W. I. HULL. New York: The City Vigilance League, 1894. 8vo. pp. xi + 257.

THIS volume is prepared for the use of leaders of social opinion, as editors, philanthropists, ministers, and citizens of public spirit. It is not a work for specialists. Part First offers a bibliography of works